

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 565

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

S E C R E T KUALA LUMPUR 4074

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, US

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN REQUEST FOR COUNTERINSURGENCY EQUIPMENT

REF: STATE 162967 AND PREVIOUS

1. I MET WITH PRIME MINISTER RAZAK TODAY

(JULY 11) TO DISCUSS VISIT OF U.S. TEAM. KHOR ENG HEE
FROM MFA WAS ONLY OTHER PRESENT.

2. I DESCRIBED COMPOSITION OF TEAM PER REFTEL TO
PRIME MINISTER, AND SAID TEAM WOULD BE PREPARED TO
DETERMINE AS PRECISELY AS POSSIBLE WHAT GOM WANTED
IN AREA OF COUNTERINSURGENCY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING,
AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO WASHINGTON - RECOMMENDATIONS
I WAS SURE WOULD GET IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

3. RAZAK REPLIED THAT HE WAS GRATEFUL USG WAS
ABLE TO RESPOND TO HIS REQUEST SO QUICKLY. HIS FIRST
PRIORITY WAS TO OBTAIN M-16'S AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
IT WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT 30,000 HK-33'S WHICH
HAD PROVED UNSUITABLE IN COMBAT BE REPLACED IMMEDIATELY.
HE WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN APC'S AND ELECTRONIC SENSING
DEVICES FOR BOOBY-TRAP DETECTION. (I EXPLAINED THAT
"ELECTRONIC SENSING DEVICES" NORMALLY REFERRED TO
DEVICES FOR LOCATION OF HUMAN BODIES, BUT THAT I WAS
SURE THAT TEAM WOULD BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE LATEST

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TECHNOLOGY IN MINE AND BOOBY-TRAP DETECTION.)

4. PRIME MINISTER WENT ON THAT MALAYSIA DID NOT WANT "ASSISTANCE" AND POLITICALLY COULD NOT AFFORD TO TAKE IT IF OFFERED. GOM WISHES TO BUY THINGS FROM US ALTHOUGH IT HOPES THAT SOME CREDIT CAN BE PROVIDED. I TOLD HIM THAT MY MESSAGES FROM WASHINGTON MADE CLEAR THAT TEAM WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS FMS CREDIT. RAZAK ALSO SAID IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION THAT GOM WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER PURCHASE OF HELICOPTERS BUT PURCHASES OF THIS ITEM IN PARTICULAR WOULD BE HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON CREDIT TERMS.

5. I EXPLAINED TO PM THAT SAME TEAM WOULD BE GOING ON TO SINGAPORE BECAUSE GOS HAS MADE REQUESTS SIMILAR TO THOSE MADE BY GOM. HE SAW NO PROBLEM WITH THIS AND COMMENTED THAT "WE AND SINGAPORE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER, AS IS THAILAND. PRIME MINISTER LEE AND I REMAIN IN TOUCH ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS." I ASKED IF THAT MEANT THAT HE AND PM LEE WERE CONSIDERING SOME SORT OF JOINT APPROACH TO INSURGENCY PROBLEM. RAZAK SEEMED TO TAKE THIS AS A NEW IDEA BUT REPLIED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THEY WOULD WISH TO. IN ANY EVENT, HE WAS GLAD THAT SAME TEAM THAT VISITED K.L. WOULD BE GOING ON TO SINGAPORE.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, PM SAID THAT TALKS WHICH WOULD BEGIN MONDAY MORNING, JULY 21, WOULD BE CHAIRED ON MALAYSIAN SIDE BY TAN SRI ZAITON, SEC GEN OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. PRESENT WOULD BE GENERAL IBRAHIM, CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES STAFF AND DATUK HANIFF, INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE. HE WOULD ALSO ADD ONE MAN FROM TREASURY SO THAT THERE WOULD BE AN EXPERT PRESENT WHEN MONEY AND CREDIT WERE DISCUSSED.
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